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Own Weapon Hit Nixon, Ex-Aide Says

Cuban Invasion Plans Kept Secret for Security: Klein

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP)—Richard M. Nixon's former press secretary said yesterday that Nixon's desire to keep the secret of Cuban invasion plans caused him to be "clubbed" by President Kennedy in the 1960 campaign.

Herbert G. Klein, press secretary for Nixon during the 1960 presidential campaign and now editor of the San Diego Union, said Nixon had wanted to make Cuban intervention a campaign issue but did not do so for security reason.

When Kennedy came out for Cuban intervention, Klein said, "The effect was that in a crucial period of the campaign Mr. Nixon was being clubbed with his own weapon. And, because he had a strong sense of his responsibility to protect security, he had no choice but to argue against Mr. Kennedy, and thus against a policy he previously originated himself."

KLEIN'S VERSION of the fact appeared in Sunday edition of The Union.

He called it a "story we at the Nixon staff spotted in 1964 during the 1960 campaign."

"It is the story of how we are sued," he said, "when the former vice president has assumed that in his new book, 'The Secret and the Storm,' was disclosed last week by the President."

Klein said four members of Nixon's staff knew of the invasion plan, including trained forces against Cuba.

"Frequently we discussed among ourselves the handling of the Cuban issue within security circles," Klein said. "We heard the rumor that the Kennedy staff feared the beach assault would take place before the election. We suspected this was the reason why, Oct. 20, Mr. Kennedy proposed direct intervention."

"FOR THE vice president and his staff, the angriest moments of the campaign took place on Oct. 20, on the eve of the fourth television debate between Nixon and Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy, in New York when Mr. Kennedy was in the day, made a statement which directly outlined the secret program which was being carried out—and which we had for security reasons kept secret."

Here is what he thought had happened.

"First: On Jan. 1, 1960, then head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mr. Kennedy had concurred in a decision that he had been briefed with particular emphasis on Cuba and Africa. Nothing was said to the two told reporters. They knew that this was in secret with orders given Mr. Dulles, President Eisenhower."

"Second: Nixon had secured the initiative on the Cuban issue with his Miami statement calling a quarantine against Cuba. And in the best co-ordination of the campaign, the administration had followed with putting this into effect."

"IT SEEMED obvious," Mr. Kennedy was said after realizing he was pointing at a crucial point in the campaign, was still with secret material he had at the Dulles briefings. The House was queried. He told Mr. Kennedy that he formed about the troops. Others told us President Eisenhower was angry over the disclosure."

"In the light of what I of happenings at that time, of course, surprised last Mr. Dulles' statement which corroborates President's position that he was the troop training."

In a statement, Dulles said the intelligence brief situation. They own government."